

□ 1430

EXTENDING DEADLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN STATE OF ALABAMA

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3852) to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alabama.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3852

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF DEADLINE AND REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 7115, the Commission shall, at the request of the licensee for the project, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the Commission's procedures under that section, extend for 3 consecutive 2-year periods, the time period during which the licensee is required to commence construction of the project.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall take effect on the expiration of the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (a).

(c) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the license for the project described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall reinstate the license effective as of the date of its expiration and extend the time required for commencement of construction of the project for not more than 3 consecutive 2-year periods, the first of which shall commence on the date of expiration of the license.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Florida). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

H.R. 3852 extends the construction period for a hydroelectric project in the State of Alabama. Under section 13 of the Federal Power Act, project construction must begin within 4 years of issuance of the license. If construction has not yet begun, FERC cannot extend the deadline and must terminate the license. H.R. 3852 grants the project developer up to 6 additional years to commence construction if it pursues the commencement of construction in good faith and with due diligence.

These types of bills have not been controversial in the past. The bill does

not change the license requirements in any way and does not change environmental standards, but merely extends the construction deadline.

There is a need to act, Mr. Speaker, since the construction deadline for the George Andrews project expires in September. If Congress does not act, FERC will terminate the license, the project owner will lose its investment in the project, and the local community will lose jobs and revenues.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 3852.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BOUCHER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this measure. I want to congratulate our colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT), for his efforts on this measure. He has made an excellent case to the House for its approval, and I am pleased to urge its approval today.

The legislation directs the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the deadline for commencement of construction on the Andrews project, which is a 24 megawatt hydroelectric facility to be located on the Chattahoochee River in Houston County, Alabama and Early County, Georgia. The construction deadline for the project expires on September 21 of this year, and it is the purpose of this legislation to extend that deadline. The legislation will extend the deadline for up to 3 additional 2-year periods.

Congress has enacted similar legislation in past years extending construction deadlines on projects of this nature, and this particular legislation was reported unanimously by the Subcommittee on Energy and Power and by the full Committee on Commerce. I know of no objection to this legislation, either from any of our colleagues or from any States that have an interest in the project; and I am, therefore, pleased to urge its passage by the House.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3852.

The question was taken.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EXTENDING DEADLINE FOR COMMENCEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF ARROWROCK DAM HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN STATE OF IDAHO

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1236) to extend the deadline under the Federal Power Act for commencement of the construction of the Arrowrock Dam Hydroelectric Project in the State of Idaho, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1236

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF TIME FOR FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION PROJECT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the time period specified in section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806) that would otherwise apply to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project numbered 4656, the Commission may, at the request of the licensee for the project and after reasonable notice, in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest requirements of that section and the Commission's procedures under that section, extend the time period during which the licensee is required to commence the construction of the project for three consecutive two-year periods.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the expiration of the extension issued by the Commission prior to the date of enactment of this Act under section 13 of the Federal Power Act (16 U.S.C. 806).

(c) REINSTATEMENT OF EXPIRED LICENSE.—If the period required for commencement of construction of the project described in subsection (a) has expired prior to the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall reinstate the license effective as of the date of its expiration and the first extension authorized under subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of such expiration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material on the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1236 extends the construction period for the Arrowrock Dam Hydroelectric Project in the State of Idaho. Under section 13 of the Federal Power Act, project construction must begin within 4 years of issuance of the license. If construction has not begun by that time, FERC cannot extend the deadline and must terminate the license. S. 1236 authorizes the FERC to grant the project owner up to 6 additional years to commence construction in accordance with the good faith, due diligence, and public interest